(b) whether adequte funds, accrue from Universal Service Obligation levy for rural telephony expansion;

(c) whether it is a fact that private telecom operators are defaulting on rural telephony sector obligations; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to ensure compliance by private telecom operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. However, as per NTP-1999 (New Telecome Policy-1999), the target fixed for rural tele-density is 4% by 2010.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Agreement were signed with M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and M/s Reliance Info Limited (RIL) in September, 2004 to provide 46,253 Rural Community Phone (RCP) (BSNL: 24,822, RIL: 21,431) in the country in villages with population exceeding 2,000 and without a public phone. Out of these, 36,338 RCPs (BSNL; 20,807, RIL: 15,531) have been provided till January, 2007. The remaining RCPs are likely to be provided by September, 2007.

Agreement were signed with M/s BSNL, M/s.RIL and M/s Tata Tele. Service (TTL) and M/s TTL (MH) in March, 2005 for provision of individual Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) to be installed during 1-4-2005 to 31-3-2007. These RDELs are to be installed in the eligible 1685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in the country, where cost of providing telephone connection is more than the revenue earned. The share of SDCAs among these companies is 1267,203,172,43 respectively. About 17,12,530 RDELs have been provided [M/s BSNL 6,08,039 M/s RIL 4,64,276 M/s TTL, 5,00,023 M/s TTL(MH) 1,40,192] till January, 2007.

Under Unified Access Service License (UASL), there is no mandatory obligation for providing rural telephony.

Making post offices technology savvy

1047. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to spruce up post offices and make them technology savvy to attract more investors;

(b) if so, the steps taken and programmes initiated in detail during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken and programmes formulated and implemented to augment savings and investment potential of post office for the last three years, year-wise, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to generate new revenue streams and employment generated through post offices for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 8163 Post Offices have been provided with computers to facilitate induction of technology in Post Offices during the last three years. The year-wise, State-wise and category-wise details are given in Statement-I (See below).

(c) To improve the quality of Savings Bank service from Post Offices, additional 4000 Post Offices has been taken up for savings bank computerization in February, 2007 in addition to 500 Post Offices as at present. Facility of electronic clearance for interest payment under Monthly Income Scheme (MIS) is provided from 207 Post Offices across the country. The Department, in a tie up with Oriential Co. Ltd., is making available accidental death insurance coverage for Savings Bank, Monthly Income Scheme and Senior Citizen Savings Scheme account holders on request. 142 Postal Financial Marts have also been set up in fully computerized post offices to offer all financial products and services of the Department as also other investment products made available by tie up with Financial Institutions/Companies under one roof during the financial year 2005-06. A list of Postal Finance Marts, State-wise and category-wise is given in Statement-ll (See below).

(d) In order to generate new revenue streams, the Department has introduced a number of new and value added services over the last three years. The details have been given in Statement-Ill (See below). These services have been provided within the existing resources of the Department.

Statement-I

List of post offices State-wise, year-wise & category-wise provided with computers during last three years

State	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	HO	SO	HO	SO	HO	SO
Andhra Pradesh	104	348	—	0	—	42
Assam	19	91	—	0	—	152
Bihar	31	26	—	70	—	166
Chhattisgarh	10	136	—	0	—	9
Delhi	12	138	—	0	—	128
Gujarat	41	90	—	190	—	206
Haryana	16	140	—	0	—	14
Himachal Pradesh	18	102	—	0	—	8
Jammu& Kashmir	8	60	—	0	—	4
Jharkhand	13	91	—	0	—	22
Karnataka	64	333	—	0	—	114
Kerala	51	494	—	0	—	63
Madhya Pradesh	42	140	—	0	—	34
Maharashtra & Goa	63	801	—	0	—	65
North Eastern State*	9	56		0	—	54
Orissa	35	144	—	0	—	76
Punjab	22	217	—	0	—	16
Rajasthan	55	204	—	0	—	24
Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	92	492	—	264	—	52
Uttar Pradesh	74	40	—	74	—	580
Uttaranchal	13	111	—	0	—	14
West Bengal including A & N Islands & Sikkim	47	139		-854		136
TOTAL	839	4393	—	952	—	1979

*Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland & Tripura
Category: HO-Head Post Office. SO-Sub Post Office

Statement-ll

List of Postal Finance Marts-State-wise & category-wise

State	Financial Mart (##)	
	HO	SO
Andhra Pradesh	7	3
Assam	1	0
Bihar	3	4
Chhattisgarh	3 .	0
Delhi	5	0
Gujarat	6	1
Haryana	2	2
Himachal Pradesh	5	0
Jammu & Kashmir	5	0
Jharkhand	5	0
Karnataka	6	4
Kerala	7	0
Madhya Pradesh	9	0
Maharashtra & Goa	6	1
North Eastern States*	6	0
Orissa	7	0
Punjab	1	4
Rajasthan	6	0
Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	11	7
Uttar Pradesh	6	2
Uttaranchal	2	0
West Bengal including A & N Islands & Sikkim	5	0
TOTAL	114	28

*Aunachal Pradesh, Mizoram Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland & Tripura Category: HO-Head Post Office, SO-Sub Post Office

Financial Marts are being opened from 2005-06 only.

No Postal Finance Mart was set up in 2003-04 & 2004-05

Statement-Ill

New & Value Added Services Introduced during the last three years

Year	Service & its features, in brief
2003-04	Bill Mail Service— Mailing solution for periodic communications, like Financial Statements, Bills, Monthly Accounts Bills
	e-post—Bridging the digital divide by conneting all Indian through internet, where transmission is online and physical delivery of messages through postmen.
2004-05	Logistics Post—End to end solution for higher load consignments
2005-06	Direct Post—A cost effective Direct Marketing service for un-addressed mail designed to elicit targeted response.
	e-Payment—Online collection of payments.
	Instant Money Order (IMO)—Effective and fast online money transfer service within the country.
	National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme— Payment to beneficiaries through Post office network.

Expansion of BSNL's subscribers

1048. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fixed line phones under BSNL all over the country as on December 31,2006.;

(b) the number of cellular phones under BSNL all over the country as on 31 December, 2006;

(c) whether any efforts is being made to retain, sustain and expand BSNL's base of subscribers;